greater than 12 and acts as an osmotic agent to maintain a volume of the aqueous formulation in the body cavity serving to separate tissues which otherwise may adhere to each other.

2. (Original) A composition according to Claim 1 wherein the aqueous formulation is a solution.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) A composition according to Claim 1 wherein the percentage of α-1,6 linkages in the dextrin is less than 10%.

5. (Original) A composition according to Claim 4 wherein the percentage of α-1,6 linkages in the dextrin is less than 5%.

6. (Previously Presented) A composition according to Claim 1 wherein the number average molecular weight (Mn) of the dextrin is in the range of 1,000 to 30,000.

7. (Previously Presented) A composition according to Claim 6 wherein the Mn of the dextrin is in the range of 3,000 to 8,000.

8. (Previously Presented) A composition according to Claim 1 wherein the weight average molecular weight (Mw) of the dextrin is in the range of 3,000 to 50,000.

9. (Original) A composition according to Claim 8 wherein the Mw of the dextrin is from 5,000 to 50,000.

10. (Previously Presented) A composition according to Claim 1 wherein the dextrin contains more than 50% of polymers with a degree of polymerisation (DP) greater than 12.

11-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A composition according to Claim 1 in which the dextrin is present in an amount of from 2.5-18 % by weight of the composition.

15. (Original) A composition according to Claim 14 in which the dextrin is present in an amount of from 3-5 % by weight of the composition.

16. (Previously Presented) A composition according to Claim 14 in which the dextrin is present in an amount of about 4 % by weight of the composition.

17. (Original) A composition according to Claim 1 which further includes a calcium binding agent.

18. (Previously Presented) A composition according to Claim 17 wherein the calcium binding agent is EDTA or sodium citrate.

19-20.

21. (Previously Presented) A composition according to Claim 1 which further comprises a hyaluronate.

22. (Currently Amended) A composition according to Claim 1 which further comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of glycosaminoglycan ~~glycosolaminoglycan~~, an antibiotic agent, prostacyclin or an analogue thereof, a fibrinolytic agent or an analogue thereof, an anti-inflammatory agent or an analogue thereof, ~~dextrin sulphate~~ and methylene blue.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~preventing or~~ reducing the incidence of adhesions in a body cavity, comprising introducing into the body cavity a composition comprising an aqueous formulation further comprising a polysaccharide dextrin in an amount effective to ~~prevent or~~ reduce the incidence of said ~~such~~ adhesions, wherein the dextrin is unsubstituted and ~~wherein~~ the dextrin contains more than 15% of polymers with a degree of polymerisation (DP) greater than 12 and acts as an osmotic agent to maintain a volume of the aqueous formulation in the body cavity serving to separate tissues which otherwise may adhere to each other.

24. (Original) A method according to Claim 23 wherein the aqueous formulation is a solution.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 23 wherein said composition is applied to the appropriate body cavity after a surgical operation has been carried out.

27. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 23 wherein the composition is allowed to remain in the body cavity for a minimum of 2 to 3 days.

28. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 23 wherein the composition is allowed to remain in the body cavity over the period during which fibrin exudation is at a maximum.

29. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 23 wherein the composition remains in the body cavity for a period of up to 7 to 8 days in order to allow restoration of non-stick surfaces.

30. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 23 wherein the composition is applied to the peritoneal cavity in a volume in the range of 500-2000 ml.

31. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 30 wherein the composition is applied to the peritoneal cavity in a volume in the range of 1000 ml-1500 ml.

32. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 23 wherein the dextrin is applied to the appropriate body cavity in differing concentrations over a concentration range of 2.5-18 % by weight of the composition.

33. (Original) A method according to Claim 32 wherein the dextrin is applied to the appropriate body cavity in differing concentrations over a concentration range of 3-5 % by weight of the composition.

34. (Previously Presented) A method according to either Claim 32 wherein the dextrin is applied to the appropriate body cavity in an amount of about 4 % by weight of the composition.

35. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 23 wherein the concentration range of the dextrin is selectively altered over a period of time.

36-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) Products containing an aqueous formulation of the polysaccharide dextrin of Claim 22 ~~17~~ as a combined preparation for use in ~~preventing or~~ reducing the incidence of adhesions in ~~or associated with~~ a body cavity ~~wherein the dextrin contains more than 15% of polymers with a degree of polymerisation (DP) greater than 12 and~~